



The Alliance to End Hunger Newsletter

2012, Issue I

Events

Second Annual National Hunger Free Communities Summit *Hosted by the Alliance*

Saturday, February 25,
2012, at the Capital Hilton in
Washington, D.C.

[Register Now!](#)

Please contact
jk@alliance-to-end-hunger.org
or (202) 688-1154 with any
questions or feedback.
We look forward to seeing
you in February!

2012 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference and National CACFP Leadership Conference *Hosted by FRAC and Feeding America*

February 26-28, 2012, at the
Capital Hilton in
Washington, DC

To learn more, please visit
[http://www.
anti-hunger-policy-confer-
ence.org/](http://www.anti-hunger-policy-conference.org/)

A Message from Tony



As we enter what promises to be an eventful year, I want to take the opportunity to tell you about an important upcoming event.

On Saturday, February 25, the Alliance to End Hunger host our

Second Annual National Hunger Free Communities Summit at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. The Summit is a one day event designed to bring together nonprofit, religious, private sector and public sector leaders committed to ending hunger in their communities – in other words, people working to create Hunger Free Communities. This event provides attendees with a forum to share their innovative models, best practices, and lessons learned in their efforts to make their communities hunger-free.

Over the past year, as my staff and I have visited and spoken with anti-hunger coalitions across the country, we've particularly struck by two recurring themes.

The first theme is that funding for community-based anti-hunger work is tight. The economy is still in rough shape, and as a result, both public and private funding is hard to come by. At the same time, the tough economic conditions mean that the level of need out there is as high as it's ever been.

There is a second, more hopeful theme—and that is *innovation*. Community-based anti-hunger coalitions are finding ways to continue their work despite the challenging funding climate; in many cases, they're finding ways to do more with less. So this year, the Summit will be highlighting and honoring their innovative work.

In 2011, more than 200 people from all over the country joined us for the Summit. We expect the same number of attendees this year, and registration is already filling up fast. I would encourage anyone who cares about making their community a Hunger Free Community to register for the Summit as soon as possible, by visiting www.hungerfreecommunities.org/summit/. This edition of our newsletter also contains further details about this important event.

Once again, we're holding the Summit is being in conjunction with the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and Feeding America's National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference, which begins on Sunday, February 26, 2012. This is another critical event for advocates committed to ending hunger in the United States, and we've worked closely with FRAC and Feeding America to make sure the two events are complementary. You can find more information about the Anti-Hunger Policy Conference at www.anti-hunger-policy-conference.org.

I hope to see many of you at the Summit next month.

All the best,

Tony Hall

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toendhunger



National Hunger Free Communities Summit

February 25, 2012 • Washington, D.C.

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Innovation Awards Contest

Win a cash prize for your anti-hunger coalition and present at the Second Annual National Hunger Free Communities Summit.

Three anti-hunger coalitions will be selected to be awarded the following amounts in recognition of particularly innovative best practices:

1st Place: \$2,500

2nd Place: \$1,500

3rd Place: \$1,000

The winning coalitions will also give presentations on their innovations at a special luncheon plenary panel that will take place during the Second Annual National Hunger Free Communities Summit.

Contest submissions will be open until Friday, February 3, 2012, at 5pm EST. Winners will be notified by February 10, 2012.

For more details on the Innovation Awards contest and instructions for how to enter, please visit

www.hungerfreecommunities.org/summit/innovation-

Saturday, February 25, 2012, 8:00am-6:00pm
Capital Hilton
1001 16th Street, NW

Speakers include:

Former Congresswoman Eva Clayton
Ambassador Tony Hall, Alliance to End Hunger
Rosemary Johnston, Maryland Governor's Office on Children
Jeremy Everett, Texas Hunger Initiative
Dave Miner, Indianapolis Food Resource Network
And many more!

And representatives from anti-hunger coalitions nationwide, including:

California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa
Indiana, Louisiana, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska,
New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and
more!

[Register Now!](#)

[Travel Scholarships Available](#)

[Innovation Awards Contest—Cash Prizes for top 3 Innovative Best Practices!](#)

For more details, visit
www.hungerfreecommunities.org/summit
or contact J.K. Granberg-Michaelson: jk@alliancetoendhunger.org



Alliance's National Alliance Partnership Program off to a strong start

Report by Steve Myers

Work on our National Alliance Partnership Program (NAPP) really took off in the fourth quarter as NAPP Coordinator, Steve Myers, traveled to Ghana, Kenya and Uganda to work with emerging alliances against hunger in these countries. NAPP is intended to provide capacity building for Alliance-type organizations in three developing countries and is funded by an 18-month grant from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

GHANA

In Ghana, we have partnered with the Hunger Alliance of Ghana to convene two Non-State Actors consultations under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP): one in Accra from October 19-21 and one in Tamale from December 13-15. These events were attended by a total of over 120 representatives of organizations from across the spectrum of Ghanaian civil society including NGOs, private sector, government, universities and research institutions, and the media. Included were over 30 organizations representing farmers and other food producers



These meetings significantly raised the level of engagement of civil society in the implementation of Ghana's Medium-term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP). Among the outcomes were the creation of a CAADP NSA Task Force to coordinate civil society participation in the METASIP and other CAADP processes, and a CAADP NSA Action Plan outlining specific activities to increase civil society participation in, and alignment with, Ghana's CAADP country plan. The Hunger Alliance of Ghana has been designated as the secretariat for the NSA Task Force, responsible for providing communications, coordination, and materials for the Task Force. In addition to their activities under CAADP, the Ghana Alliance has been chosen as the lead civil society activities for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)

movement, which was officially launched in Ghana during the week of December 5-9.

KENYA

In October, Steve met with representatives from a core group of international NGOs working in Kenya, including Catholic Relief Services, Food for the Hungry, Heifer International and CARE, as well as the Kenya Freedom from Hunger Council. The group had a wide-ranging discussion that covered both the principal causes of hunger in Kenya and the obstacles to civil society engagement on these issues. Expectations were set for additional meetings before the end of the year.

Those meetings took place in Nairobi on December 5-6. The meetings were attended by over 30 individuals representing 22 different civil society organizations; INGOs, local CSOs, farmers' and producers' organizations, faith-based groups and media. The participants included over a dozen organizations from outside Nairobi, most representing small-scale farmers and producers.

Continued on following page...

Events

West Africa Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition Launch Conference

February 1-3, 2012 at the Alisa Hotel in Accra, Ghana.

Newsworthy

The Elders Highlight Food Aid for North Korea

Brought together by Nelson Mandela, [The Elders](#) is a group of global leaders who offer their collective influence and experience to help address causes of human suffering.

In her featured blog post for their site, *Addressing the Food Aid Dilemma in North Korea: School Meals*, Katherine Zellweger addresses a critical issue in North Korea.

As she notes, "the reasons for North Korea's recurrent food shortage are manifold..." but, "there are ways of substantially helping ordinary people in North Korea and ensuring that risk is minimized. One would be a well-planned nationwide school meals program for the children of poor families."

As about a third of North Korean children today, the country's future, are malnourished, Zellweger asks, "can we, the international community, really remain indifferent to this scale of suffering?"

For more, click <http://theelders.org/article/addressing-food-aid-dilemma-north-korea-school-meals>



Alliance's National Alliance Partnership Program off to a strong start

Continued from page 3

KENYA continued...

The meeting agenda was designed to lead the participants, through a sequence of discussions and exercises, to the point where they were prepared to formalize the creation of a Kenyan Alliance. Although the meetings deviated from this agenda fairly quickly in favor of a more organic process, they nevertheless culminated in the desired outcome. The Kenya Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition was initiated and an interim secretariat selected to get the new Alliance up and running. A formal launch event is expected sometime in the Spring/Summer of 2012.

UGANDA

During an August meeting with a representative from Gorta – The Freedom from Hunger Council of Ireland, Alliance Director Tony Hall and Chief of Staff Ann Steensland were introduced to the work of a Ugandan coalition called the Food Rights Alliance (FRA). They were favorably enough impressed that it was decided to visit Uganda to examine the possibility of making it our third focus country, with FRA as our partner organization.

That visit was conducted on December 7-10, 2011. Gorta organized a series of meetings with key government and institutional stakeholders as well as with the FRA Coordinator, Mrs. Agnes Kirabo. These meetings culminated in the year-end business meeting of the FRA itself, where we were able to observe and assess the workings of the organization and to hear discussions of their goals and aspirations for 2012 and beyond. Based on these meetings and observations, it is our strong recommendation that Uganda should be our third focus country, with the Food Rights Alliance as the country partner organization to represent Uganda.

GCNF Announces Release of 2011 Global Child Nutrition Forum Executive Summary

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation has released the 2011 Global Child Nutrition Forum Executive Summary. The Global Child Nutrition Forum is a five-day long international conference. During the Forum, country leaders participate in the School Feeding Toolkit workshop where they are guided through the process of starting or expanding school feeding programs linked to local agriculture. The leaders represent countries developing new programs, or seeking to improve existing school feeding programs. Upon returning home, they serve as resources in their countries and often for neighboring nations developing school feeding programs. Global Forum attendees credit their participation in the meeting as being instrumental to starting or expanding school feeding programs in their countries.

The 2011 Global Child Nutrition Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya and received high accolades from attendees and speakers alike.

The Executive Summary can be found on the Global Child Nutrition Forum web page, at [http://www.gcnf.org/library/Full%20GCNF%202011%20Exec%20Summary_TOTAL_9%2027%202011%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.gcnf.org/library/Full%20GCNF%202011%20Exec%20Summary_TOTAL_9%2027%202011%20(2).pdf)

Newsworthy

Ambassador Tony Hall to Be Honored by GCNF

Ambassador Tony Hall is the tenth recipient of the Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award for Child Nutrition.

He will be honored on Monday, March 5, 2012 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC, during the Global Child Nutrition Foundation's annual "A Possible Dream" Gala.

The Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award for Child Nutrition is presented each year to an individual whose work has made significant strides toward helping the world's poorest children receive adequate nutrition so they may thrive and reach their full potential.

Please visit: <http://www.gcnf.org/featured/ambassador-tony-hall-to-receive-2012-gene-white-lifetime-achievement-award-for-child-nutrition/> for more information.



Newsorthy

Ambassador Tony Hall Recognized by the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy

Ambassador Tony Hall, executive director of the Alliance to End Hunger was honored by the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy at their Annual Faith-in-Action Award Dinner in early December.

The International Center for Religion and Diplomacy acts to “address identity-based conflicts that exceed the reach of traditional diplomacy by incorporating religion as part of the solution. More often than not, these take the form of ethnic conflict, tribal warfare, or religious hostilities.” This group has done work in many countries. Their current work focuses on schools in Pakistan. They also have other projects throughout the Middle East and the United States.

This year, the recipient of their prestigious Faith-in-Action award was Tony Hall. This event, hosted by the Ambassador at Large for Pakistan, featured many prominent figures dedicated to social justice. At the award dinner, the keynote speaker was Andrew Natsios, the former head of USAID. Information was also provided about ICRD’s international programs and their ideas for future progress.

To learn more about the Center, please visit <http://www.icrd.org/>.

American Jewish World Service Launches Reverse Hunger Campaign

Building on its legacy of advancing global justice, American Jewish World Service (AJWS), an international development and human rights organization, recently unveiled its new Reverse Hunger campaign. The campaign seeks to rally the American Jewish community to challenge and change a critical factor contributing to global hunger—U.S. food aid policy.

Reverse Hunger takes particular aim at a piece of U.S. food aid policy that requires that the country’s food donations be purchased, processed and transported by American companies. AJWS seeks to reform this misguided system that not only delays the arrival of lifesaving food, but also perpetuates a cycle of dependence.

AJWS’s campaign calls on Congress for a Farm Bill that: (1) promotes a flexible approach to food aid, as opposed to a “one-size-fits-all” model; and (2) prioritizes locally and regionally purchased food aid wherever possible.

AJWS believes that by reforming U.S. food aid policy, developing nations will have a chance to strengthen their ability to grow their own food —preparing them for future emergencies.

In partnership with several Jewish organizations, AJWS is promoting a “Jewish Petition for a Just Farm Bill” that it hopes thousands will sign in advance of the 2012 Farm Bill debate to show Congress the Jewish community’s commitment to reforming food aid and promoting a new vision for our agriculture policy at home and abroad.

Individuals can sign onto the petition here: www.ajws.org/reversehunger. More information on the campaign and the organization’s first campaign event, Global Hunger Shabbat, can be found here: www.ajws.org/hunger/ghs.

Addressing World Hunger with Yum!

New Alliance member Yum! Brands recently completed its World Hunger Relief campaign for 2011. During this year’s global campaign, they raised more than \$30 million for the World Food Programme and other hunger relief efforts, enough to provide 120 million meals to those most in need. Their employees, franchisees, and their families also donated millions of volunteer service hours.

Throughout the five years of this campaign, Yum! Brands has raised and donated more than \$115 million to WFP and other organizations in the fight against hunger. In addition, this company has continued to raise global awareness of the hunger issue in a variety of ways, including through their partnership with five-time Grammy winner Christina Aguilera. The campaign generated nearly 3.5 billion impressions through television, print advertising, social media and online efforts.



National FFA Organization Continues to Benefit from New Programs



The National FFA Organization is the largest vocational student group in the country, with more than half a million members and still growing.

Although farm employment accounts for less than 1 percent of all jobs in the United States, the Agriculture Department says that one in 12 jobs is agriculture-related. And during the deep downturn and rocky recovery, these workers have actually fared better than most.

The group has succeeded in part by expanding well beyond agricultural science while also broadening that field to include genetics, logistics, landscape gardening and alternative fuels.

At a time when many employers complain about the lack of basic communication and interpersonal skills among job candidates, the F.F.A. emphasizes work on group projects and old-fashioned presentations in essays and speeches at many of its events.

“There is an unlimited future in agriculture,” said Tom Vilsack, the U.S. secretary of agriculture, citing the demand being created by a growing global population and changing diets in developing countries.

To view the full article, click the following link: <http://www.nytimes.com/ffa-prospers-by-expanding-its-scope>

At Michigan Farmers’ Markets, SNAP Benefits Go Twice As Far

A new program is working to close the gap between farmers’ markets and low-income families, in Detroit and beyond: increasing access to fresh, healthy food for low-income residents of inner cities while simultaneously strengthening the local economy and improving the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities.

The program, called Double Up Food Bucks (DUFBS), is a project of the nonprofit Fair Food Network. SNAP shoppers use their benefits at a participating farmers’ market and receive tokens for an equal amount to purchase any Michigan-grown fruit or vegetable at the market.

From June 1 to September 15, more than 22,000 people have taken advantage of it—one-third of them using their SNAP benefits at a farmers’ market for the first time ever.

The Fair Food Network has supported the program almost exclusively with philanthropic dollars, but it has demonstrated the feasibility and effectiveness of using incentives to encourage lower income families to purchase healthier food and support the local food economy and farmers.

To learn more, visit <http://www.doubleupfoodbucks.org/>

Newsworthy

Ambassador Tony Hall Praises Appointment of Ertharin Cousin as Executive Director of World Food Programme

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General José Graziano da Silva recently announced their appointment of Ms. Ertharin Cousin (United States) as Executive Director of the World Food Programme, at the Under Secretary-General level, in succession to Ms. Josette Sheeran.

“Ambassador Cousin is an outstanding choice to head WFP. She has the knowledge, the drive, and most importantly, the passion,” said Tony Hall, who served as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture from 2002 to 2005, the post Ambassador Cousin currently holds.

“Everything Ertharin Cousin has done in her career has prepared her for this moment. She understands the issues, the challenges, and the opportunities; and she is respected by key stakeholders in government, the private sector, and the NGO community.”

“Ertharin Cousin is one of the hardest working people I know. She has the vision and determination to lead WFP during this critical time. I congratulate her on this achievement and I look forward to working with her to end hunger, once and for all.”



Newsworthy

Brandeis University Examines Costs of Hunger in US

The report indicates that the number of food insecure and hungry Americans jumped by 30% from 2007, before onset of the recession, to 2010. In 2010, hunger and food insecurity cost the United States \$167.5 billion, or \$542 for every American.

“This increase in food insecurity and America’s hunger bill over these three years demonstrates the breadth of suffering associated with this recession,” says Professor Donald Shepard, principal author of the report.

Donna Cooper, co-author of the report says, “Every American has a real stake in driving down the numbers of hunger and food insecure Americans...growing poverty is becoming a real cost for every American household.”

For more information, please visit <http://www.brandeis.edu/news/2011/october/hunger.html>

America’s 9 Worst Urban Food Deserts

Millions of Americans live in areas considered food deserts—defined by the lack or absence of large grocery stores and supermarkets that sell fresh produce and healthy food options; and low-income populations living on tight budgets.

Food deserts in urban areas are particularly common. According to NewsOne, the following cities are particularly hard hit:

- 1) **New Orleans, Louisiana**
 - Only 20 grocery stores are in New Orleans, which means the average grocery store in New Orleans serves 16,000 people
- 2) **Chicago, Illinois**
 - In Chicago, some 600,000 people live in areas that are considered food deserts. In many Chicago neighborhoods, the nearest grocery store is roughly twice as distant as the nearest fast food restaurant.
- 3) **Atlanta, Georgia**
 - Atlanta’s more affluent neighborhoods have more than three times as many supermarkets as its poor neighborhoods. There are four times as many supermarkets in mainly white neighborhoods as in black neighborhoods.
- 4) **Memphis, Tennessee**
 - 26 percent of people in the Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area said they couldn’t afford to buy food for their families in the last 12 months.
- 5) **Minneapolis, Minnesota**
 - Food deserts covered about one-half of Minneapolis and nearly one-third of St. Paul in 2006, a problem that has since intensified
- 6) **San Francisco, California**
 - 150,000 people, 20% of the city’s population, forsake buying food in order to pay bills. In Hunters Point, one of the poorest areas of the city, some 40,000 residents travel miles to the nearest grocery store.
- 7) **Detroit, Michigan**
 - More than 550,000 Detroit residents live in food deserts. Most residents live twice as far from the nearest supermarket than a fast food restaurant.
- 8) **New York City, New York**
 - 3 million New Yorkers live in communities without much access supermarkets
- 9) **Camden, New Jersey**
 - more than 900,000 (more than 10 percent of New Jersey’s population) lack adequate access to supermarkets. Camden, which consistently ranks among the poorest and most violent cities in the U.S., has just one supermarket

In total, approximately 23.5 million Americans, both urban and rural, live in areas considered food deserts. These food deserts are also signified by high levels of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in the community, which result from residents buying their food from corner stores that sell processed foods, and plentiful fast food options.

For the full article, please visit <http://newsone.com/newsone-original/iothomas/americas-worst-9-urban-food-deserts/>.

For more information about food deserts in the U.S., please visit <http://www.hungerfreecommunities.org/resource-library/food-desert-locator/>.